



57 Edition
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VIRGINIA TRAVELER,

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CLUB (#109), W.B.C.C.I.

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Happy Holiday! We wish everyone a safe, healthy and more and greater travel experience in 2021. We can only hope that the vaccines will allow some normal activity. As many of you know, the club board decided against any gatherings in 2020. We just felt to ask folks to travel and gather in the middle of a pandemic was irresponsible.

We are looking forward to put together a few special opportunities to gather and meet our newest club members. The big three are the Silver in the Streets in Abingdon in May, the Bike Virginias Caravan in August and our Business meeting in Greenwood, Va. We hope that one of these will interest the membership. More on these events later in the newsletter.

This is our first attempt a newsletter without Gary Brink. Currently the newsletter will be a joint effort between Greg Wall and me. Please provide feedback and articles. The greater the input the more interesting the newsletter will be to read.

Since Airstream sales were so popular in 2020 due the pandemic, we see that our about 40% of our membership is new. We want to welcome those folks and hope to provide a mentor to folks. Our initial thought is trying to have a group of folks available to answer questions and experiences. We realize that there is more information on the web than ever, but nothing beats a personal

contact. If you would like to get involved be on the mentor team or if you are new and want some contacts, let us know.

We plan to start traveling when per normal in 2021. As you remember we made some trips in 2020, but with all the safety protocols, found it a less enjoyable experience.

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable 2021, filled with all the travel planned.

THE EXPERIENCE TEAM

We need to recognize the contributors to the experiences planned for 2021. These are David Broad, Randy Rinehart and me. We started last year with the plans for Silver in the Streets and have continued up to this point. I am very thankful for their input and planning. David and Randy are experience in Airstream events and process and to that end, we are very lucky to have them willing to help. I am sure their spouses are included as it's nearly impossible not to talk about the planning.

SILVER IN THE STREETS - ABINGDON, VA - MAY 13-16, 2021

This long weekend should be a wonderful experience. There is a lot of planning to do, but there is still some planning to do. So, without promising things we cannot deliver on, here are some possible options

Most folks will want to ride the Creeper Trail from White Top to Damascus, VA. This is roughly a 17-mile trip with about 15.5 miles downhill. It is impractical to self-shuttle this route as the road is windy and shuttle driver cannot ride with the group. There are many services in the area for bikes and shuttles.

There is an option second option to ride the entire 34-mile route from White Top to Abingdon. The downhill route ends at Damascus and its level or climb from Damascus to Abingdon.

The Barter Theatre touts itself as being Virginia's theatre, which has been closed due to Virus, but has had a drive inn movie theater option. Maybe but May there will be some inside experience available.

The Martha Washington Inn has drawn folks to the area for years and is sure to be an experience for many.

Bristol Motor Speedway is a few miles away and if NASCAR is of interest, it might be possible to get a tour.

Let's not forget the Bristol is the Birthplace of Country music. The Birthplace of Country Music Museum offers interesting option for Ole Time Country Music and Bluegrass Lovers. There is Country Music Venue in Abingdon, so we will see if it is open an operating during our visit.

If trout fishing or fishing in general interest you, there are some option in the area including guided trips

down the South Holston, which is favorite stream to many.

We plan to have a historian available to give is some history as there is Revolutionary War muster site within walking distance and other related history to this historic town.

Abingdon is a pleasant venue that offers shopping and dining on Main Street and in the area, right off I81. By looking and doing a Web search their options to for shopping and continuing your camping/traveling experience.

As you can imagine, we will need some help with this event. If you are planning to attend, please consider helping. Many hands will make light work.

BUSINESS MEETING AUGUST 5-8, GREENWOOD, VA – MISTY MEADOW

The annual business meeting will be local with the hopes to be central and possible for more folks to attend. Looking forward to the details of this event.

BIKES VIRGINIAS AUGUST 20-29

We expect to satisfy anyone's desire to bike ride for a week. We plan to start in Abingdon, with the Virginia Creeper Trail. Next, we are headed to the Wytheville KOA where we can ride the New River Trail. The last stop will be Lewisburg, WV where we will have access to the Greenbrier Trail.

There are plenty of support and shuttle services on the Virginia Creeper, but we are going to be so lucky on the other two.

There is plenty of time to do more planning. If you are a cyclist and want to get involved, feel free to volunteer. It is ok for some participants to not be bike riders. There are plenty of support opportunities available.

MENTOR PROGRAM

With the booming sales in RVs in general and particularly with Airstreams, the Virginia Airstream Club has significant number of new members. Most of these folks have new trailers, although there are some with Vintage trailers.

It is our intent to provide these folks with a contact or so who are long time members of the club. Nothing beats experience. I know it first hand as an experienced Airstreamer probably saved our lives by point out an issue we had with our set up.

Look forward to being contacted directly. Or feel free to email our generic club Gmail account. It would be ok to reply to this email as a contact route

NEW MEMBERS

Speaking of new members, a few of our new members have shared a picture and short bio.

Gregg& Martha Wall:

Martha and I (both retired) have a 2014 25' FC that we bought in

2016. We love traveling in it, maybe I love it more, but Martha has learned quite a bit and has become good at all the things necessary in Airstream travel. Trips have included four months fishing across Canada. My fishing buddy, Kelly Sutton, wrote a book about it called "If The Fish Are Bit'n", which can be found on Amazon. Martha and I traveled for three months in Canada along the St. Lawrence, then through New Brunswick and Acadia National Park. We did a 5-week trip through central Florida and into Everglades National Park. Another trip took us up the west side of Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. We just returned from three weeks of fishing the northeast, then two months traveling through Newfoundland and a quick trip around Prince Edward Island. I have blogged about it all at www.airstream.com . Well, I wrote a blog at www.fishacrosscanada.com , but took it down a year ago. Martha and I like to hike and bike, sometimes kayak and visit new places. I love being on the road, and I love traveling with the Airstream.

All the best,
Greg and Martha



Jeff & Jan Wilcke:

Hello fellow 'Streamers. We're Jeff and Jan Wilcke. We've lived in Montgomery county Virginia since moving from the Midwest in 1982. Jan worked in a variety of nursing specialties but is best known in our area for her 20 years as an oncology nurse. Jan retired in 2018. Jeff is a veterinarian (ISU 1978) and is retiring in January after 38 years as a faculty member at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

Our Airstream adventures started with the purchase of a 19' Flying Cloud in 2012. Camping up to then was about music festivals and conventions. Owning an airstream lead to the realization that camping is our preferred way to travel. 'Home' cooking is part of the fun, not so much a chore. Acoustic music, sunsets and campfires our preferred nightlife. Sight-seeing and eclectic shopping tend to round out our trips.

We've been stockholders at Virginia Highland Airstream Park since 2018. Initially, the park was a convenient and beautiful location for camping near a favorite Memorial Day bluegrass festival at Chantilly Farms near Floyd. In 2017, we experienced a brake fire on our brand new 23' International shortly after leaving VHH that weekend. We limped back to the park and learned just how welcoming and supportive an Airstream community could be. They offered a parking space for a week (no charge) and let the repair proceed on site. We decided to join the VHH community that fall.

Jeff completed a term as VHH Secretary in October 2020 and is currently serving a term as President. On behalf of the VHH Board of Directors, we want to let you know that, with 2020 finally in the back-up camera, we're hoping to welcome the Airstream community to our park in '21. If you make your way to Copper Hill and VHH, please stop by and say Hi. We're the people living with a joyously friendly Norwich Terrier named 'Eby'.

Jeff & Jan Wilke



Tom & June Park:

We are both retired, June as an Executive Assistant from the Federal government and Tom as a business developer and manager at several government contractors. We met through an internet dating site in 2009 and married in 2010. June has traveled throughout the world to much of Europe, the Mideast and Asia. Tom is an airplane and glider pilot and accomplished sailor. We both enjoy traveling and during a trip to New Zealand we saw many small van like RVs and thought these RVs would be an excellent way to see our country and on returning started to look for similar vehicles. We selected an Airstream Interstate however found it to be too small for extended trips and eventually traded the Interstate on a new 25' Airstream Flying Cloud.

We have spent the last 3 winters in Florida in our Airstream, last winter we spent a month in Florida then went to Arizona for the remainder of the winter. We returned home in mid March during the Corona Virus Pandemic. We really didn't realize what was happening until we got home. Probably just got home in time before everything started to close. We have seen much of the Eastern US from Maine to Florida in our Airstream and began a trip to the West in 2017 to see many of the National parks in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. We

spent a week at Glacier National Park and were on our way to Yellowstone when we flew home for a death in the family. On returning to Wyoming to continue our trip in mid September, Yellowstone was closing due to snow and being not very interested in towing our Airstream in the snow we decided to head home and see these National Parks in the future. We are going on the Southwest Adventure Caravan in 2021 which gives us the opportunity to see many of these parks led by people who intimately know these areas.



ARTICLE TITLE

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Virginia Airstream Club 109 Events 2021 Schedule							
Start	End	Event	Joint	Location	City, State	Contact	email
2/13	2/13	Valentines Luncheon	JT	County Seat Restaurant	Powhattan, VA	Sachs	safari27fbse@hotmail.com
3/25	3/28	Maintenance	JT	Small Country Campground	Louisa, VA	Tom Carmichael	tomc@sportsimageinc.com
4/9	4/11	Springtime Bluebells	JT	Outlanders River Camp	W Luray, VA	Linda Heuer	gheuer@umich.edu
4/17	4/17	Board Meeting		Zoom		JMC	jcutright4@msn.com
4/21	4/25	Region 3		N Florida Fairgrounds	Tallahassee, FL	Wild	region3.wbcci.com
5/13	5/16	Silver in the Streets		Abingdon, VA	Abingdon, VA	JMC	jcutright4@msn.com
6/11	6/12	Houston Festival	JT	Cool Breeze Campground	Galax, VA	On your own	On your own this year
7/17	7/24	64th International Rally		Wilson County Expo Center	Lebanon, TN		WBCCI.org
8/5	8/8	VA Club - Business		Misty Mountain	Greenwood, VA	JMC	jcutright4@msn.com
8/9	8/14	Old Time Fiddlers		Cool Breeze Campground	Galax, VA	On your own	
8/20	8/29	Bike Virginias		Abingdon - Wytheville - Lewisburg	Abingdon, VA	JMC	jcutright4@msn.com
9/1	9/1	Board Meeting		Zoom		JMC	jcutright4@msn.com
9/10	9/12	Commonwealth Rally	JT	Small Country Campground	Louisa, VA	Tidewater	laweva@msn.com
9/28	10/4	58th Swiss Festival		Winklepleck Grove	Sugar Creek, OH		SwissRallyRegistrar@yahoo.com
12/4	12/4	Holiday Luncheon					